

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

15. (New) A multi-directional control switch comprising:
a disc-shaped operating member;
a ring-shaped resistive layer, with said operating member being movable relative to said resistive layer;
a first ring-shaped conductive layer facing said resistive layer; and
a second ring-shaped conductive layer insulated from said first conductive layer and facing said resistive layer, said second conductive layer surrounding and being concentric with said first conductive layer,

wherein

(i) a first switch contact is defined by said resistive layer and said first conductive layer, with said first switch contact being for outputting a first signal that continuously varies while a top surface of said operating member undergoes a sliding press along a locus in arc form, and

(ii) a second switch contact is defined by said resistive layer and said second conductive layer, with said second switch contact being for outputting a second signal while the top surface of said operating member is pressed by a first force.

16. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 15, wherein said first ring-shaped conductive layer has a constant width.

17. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 15, further comprising:
a third switch contact for outputting a third signal when the top surface of said operating member is pressed by a second force greater than the first force.

18. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 17, further comprising:
a third conductive layer insulated from said second conductive layer and facing said resistive layer, said third conductive layer surrounding and being concentric with said second conductive layer,

wherein said third switch contact is defined by said resistive layer and said third conductive layer.

19. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 18, wherein said third conductive layer is ring-shaped.

20. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 19, wherein said third conductive layer has a constant width.

21. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 17, wherein said operating member includes, at a bottom surface thereof, a first projection that is to press said third switch contact.

22. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 15, wherein said operating member includes, at a bottom surface thereof, a first projection that is to press said first switch contact.

23. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 22, wherein said first projection is ring-shaped.

24. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 22, wherein said operating member further includes, at the bottom surface thereof, a second projection that is to press said second switch contact,
with said second projection being ring-shaped, concentric with and surrounding said first projection.

25. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 21, wherein said operating member further includes, at the bottom surface thereof, a second projection that is to press said second switch contact and a third projection that is to press said first switch contact,

with said first projection being ring-shaped, concentric with said third projection, and surrounding said second projection.

26. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 15, wherein said operating member includes, at a bottom surface thereof, a projection that is to press said second switch contact.

27. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 15, wherein said operating member includes one of a recessed part and a projected part extending outwardly from a center of the top surface of said operating member.

28. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 15, further comprising: a vertically movable push button in a center of said operating member; and a fourth switch contact for outputting a fourth signal while said push button is pressed.

29. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 15, wherein said second conductive layer is ring-shaped.

30. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 29, wherein said second conductive layer has a constant width.

31. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 15, further comprising: a flexible sheet, wherein said resistive layer is on said flexible sheet.

32. (New) The multi-directional control switch according to claim 31, wherein said flexible sheet comprises a resistive film such that said resistive layer is defined by said resistive film.

33. (New) A multi-directional input device comprising:
a multi-directional control switch including
(i) a disc-shaped operating member,
(ii) a ring-shaped resistive layer, with said operating member being movable relative to said resistive layer,
(iii) a first ring-shaped conductive layer facing said resistive layer, and
(iv) a second ring-shaped conductive layer insulated from said first conductive layer and facing said resistive layer, said second conductive layer surrounding and being concentric with said first conductive layer,
wherein

(a) a first switch contact is defined by said resistive layer and said first conductive layer, with said first switch contact being for outputting a first signal that continuously varies while a top surface of said operating member undergoes a sliding press along a locus in arc form, and

(b) a second switch contact is defined by said resistive layer and said second conductive layer, with said second switch contact being for outputting a second signal while the top surface of said operating member is pressed by a first force;

a display unit; and

a controller, connected to said multi-directional control switch and said display unit, for controlling display on said display unit upon detection of the first signal and the second signal.

34. (New) The multi-directional input device according to claim 33, wherein said controller is for stopping detection of the second signal while detecting the first signal.

35. (New) The multi-directional input device according to claim 33, wherein said first ring-shaped conductive layer has a constant width.